

Appl. No. 09/902,440
Amdt. dated Jul. 23, 04
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2004.

REMARKS

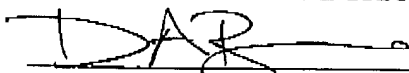
The Applicant thanks the Examiner for re-opening prosecution. Claims 22-27 remain in this application. Claims 8-11 and 15-21 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7 and 12-14 have been withdrawn.

The Examiner has explained that the claims are viewed as directed solely to a common padlock, and accordingly did not consider combination of a locking apparatus and a gooseneck trailer hitch. See Office Action at 8. Because the rejections set out in the Office Action are all apparently predicated on that view, all previously presented, non-withdrawn claims have been cancelled and new claims have been added that are directed to a combination of the particular gooseneck trailer hitch structure claimed, and the locking apparatus.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has addressed the concerns of the Examiner, and thus respectfully requests allowance of the Claims. Should there exist any further impediments to allowance of the Claims, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the indicated phone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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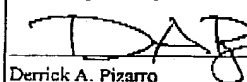
Dated: 7-23-04

Attorneys for Applicants

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper and all documents indicated as being attached are being transmitted to the Box Responses - No Fee Section of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, at fax telephone number 703-872-9326.

Date of Deposit: July 23, 2004



Derrick A. Pizarro

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